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## US House votes to repeal health law, likely to fail in Senate

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US lawmakers voted yesterday to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, a contentious move by Republicans aimed at striking down one of Obama's key achievements in an election year.

The bill, which passed in a 244-185 vote, came as outraged Democrats accused Republicans of seeking to score political points, but the legislation has virtually no chance of passing the Democratic-held Senate.

Democrats have slammed the effort -- the 31st vote to repeal part or all of the Affordable Care Act -- as a brash political show, acknowledging for days that the bill would pass the Republican-held House of Representatives.

"You're going to win the vote, but you're going to lose the case, and the debate," roared John Dingell, the dean of the House who has served in the chamber since 1955, shortly before the vote.

"I say shame. You're wasting the time of the American people," he said at the conclusion of more than five hours of debate during which lawmakers made their cases for or against the reforms signed into law in 2010 and upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court late last month.

The measure is all but dead in the water. Democrats control the Senate, and the White House has informed Congress that the president would veto the legislation should it reach his desk.

Five Democrats, some in battleground states like North Carolina where they face a tough re-election in November, joined Republicans who voted unanimously for repeal. Conservatives, led by Mitt Romney who is challenging Obama for the White House in the November election, have sought to repeal the law from day one, while most Democrats have praised it as bringing the world's richest nation closer than ever to universal health care for its citizens.

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*Continued on page 5*

## Department of Labor investigating layoff of Marriott Casino employees



The government received a letter from the Marriott Hotel informing them of their intention to layoff a certain number of their casino employees as a result of a reorganization taking place.

This happens to be the very same casino which only one month ago after fighting tooth and nail finally became unionized. When the Minister of Labor received the communiqué, he immediately contacted AHATA and also directed a letter to the Marriott Hotel.

The government is appreciative of the very positive roll of this hotel with respect to our tourism, such as is the case with all our other hotels on Aruba. However, in the same vein, the Minister of Tourism & Labor indicated that he is responsible as Minister of Labor to safeguard the rights of employees, including those employees affiliated to a union, who also must be respected.

In his letter to the Marriott, the Minister expressed his disappointment and wanted the reaction of the hotel on their alleged reorganization where 15 of the 16 employees to be laid off are the very employees who a month ago joined a union.

The Minister pointed to the fact that with the constant increase in our tourism and the high occupancy of the hotels, and based on his meetings with various hotels; there appears to

be no apparent reason for Marriott's actions (downsizing?). In his letter to Marriott, the Minister remarked that he hopes he is wrong and that the layoff of the 16 employees has nothing to do with their association with a union.

Apparently, the Department of Labor has been in contact with the Marriott because of a number of complaints about the Marriott. The department of inspection and the dispute section spent almost an entire morning at Marriott last Monday. They held talks with the management to ascertain whether the layoffs have anything to do with the employees' association with the union.

The government is aware that they are not called to meddle in the internal affairs of a private organization, and that

this is definitely not their intention either. However, the government's primary task, via the Department of Labor, is to safeguard and defend the rights that an employee has within the scope of the law.

Hence, based on these laws, the Department of Labor is conducting this type of investigation, so that if arises a request for the termination of employees, they would already have complete knowledge of the situation at the company. In his concluding remarks, the Minister reiterated that he as Minister of Labor stands firm behind the legal rights of each employee to choose whether they want to affiliate with a union, or even to choose to change unions. This is their right that must be honored, unquestionably and no matter what!



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## Aruban Daniella van den Berg, Ready for 2012 Olympic Games



Daniella van den Berg began practicing swimming at the early age of five, too young to really choose what she wanted to do with her life. It was her parents who led her to the sport of swimming. Today she is very happy with the choice. One of the experiences that have been embedded in her mind is the experience of her competition in the CCCAN at Barquisimeto, Venezuela where she earned a gold medal.

Daniella has competed against athletes from big countries in the Latin American

continent. She has a personal record of over 400IM with a tempo of 5.16, which is also a record for Aruba in this event. Daniella's biggest accomplishment, thus far, is her Silver win at the 2011 South American championship in Lima, Peru with which she classified for the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

All athletes have one dream, and Daniella is no exception. Since childhood she dreamed of becoming an Olympic athlete, today her dream will become reality! According to Daniella, you should never stop short of sacrificing to get to your ultimate goal. Here are a few questions Daniella was asked regarding her upcoming 2012 London Olympic Games participation:

1. How are your preparations going for the Olympic Games? Well, my preparations are going well. In August 2011 I went to the US to live and train. It took some time for me to get accustomed to the training and the change of life and school. But, after more or less 6 months I was able to settle in and to realize how the change is helping me a lot. In March and April I participated in two big competitions, one in Orlando and also Carifta in the Bahamas where I joined my Aruba team.

*Continued on page 5*

## Some taxi drivers will pay for union representation but not for Airport services



ORANJESTAD -- During the past weekend the Minister of Public Transport met with a Group of Taxi Chauffeurs and the STA union relative to the discussion on whether to pay a monthly Afls.9 Service Fee to the airport. This service fee will be dedicated to covering some of the cost of certain facilities and maintenance exclusively for the use of taxi chauffeurs.

The Minister, who appears to be always ready to meet to discuss matters openly, met last Friday, in response to a request by the Chauffeurs, with a group of 40 or 50 Chauffeurs who were not in agreement with the service fee being levied by the airport.

Oduber explained to the taxi chauffeurs about the legal ramifications of their union affiliations, which in essence does not provide them any bargaining or negotiation for a CWA or other representation since there is no employee-employer relationship as they are self-employed.

Neither can he as Minister negotiate anything on their behalf. They have a legal li-

cense with its accompanying rules and stipulations to allow them to function as Taxi Chauffeurs.

The Minister explained how that the levy of an airport company is not part of his charge, hence, if they introduce said levy and if the Chauffeurs are not in agreement, they would have to take the matter to court against the company. Oduber remarked that he considers it rather strange that these Chauffeurs would prefer to pay a union Afls.15 per month to defend interests that they do not have, since they are not negotiating with an employer; but that they are refusing to pay Afls. 9 for the maintenance of services offered them for a suitable facility at the airport.

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## Mobile Art coming to the Barrios this Vacation



Popular Aruban artist, Osayra Muyale of Studio O in the Stadionweg, has taken the initiative to organize what she calls "Mobile Art" especially for this school vacation period.

One of Arubus' buses will be joining this interesting and very positive project. Every day for the next three weeks a bus will leave according to a fixed schedule to visit a different Barrio.

The Ministry of Culture has organized a mixed group together with young volunteers to bring art and literature closer to youth and adults during this vacation period.

The artists will provide an explanation of what art is, what it means that soon Aruba will have a first encounter with a "Bienale of Art" and would work together with children in the Barrios, as part of the schedule of the Barrio.

After the painting exercises they will distribute books by Charuba, UNUCO and the Department of Education. The primary objective of this action is to stimulate reading among children as an important pastime during their free days from school during this vacation.

## Aiden Geggie is the winner in the "Barracudas" category



Yesterday, *The Morning News* published this picture with the caption saying that Z Schettswi from the U.S. came first place in the age bracket, "Barracudas" in the Hi Winds competition. But it was an error. This young gentleman's name is not Z Schettswi but Aiden Geggie. The *Morning News* apologizes for the mistake.

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## Aruban Daniella van den Berg...

Continued from page 2



At both competitions I was able to improve my tempo above the 400 and 800 Freestyle and I achieved the goals I had set for myself for those competitions.

2. What will it be like for you to represent Aruba at an Olympic Game?

For me as such a young girl, it would be a very great experience that I am certain I would never forget! I believe that anyone who gets an opportunity to represent their country at an Olympic Game must be very happy and proud to be there. To represent your country at such a competition as the Olympic Games means that you are among the best of your country, together with all the other best athletes of the world. I would be very happy and feel honored because it would mean that all my training sacrifice, leaving behind my family, friends and all the efforts for so many years had paid off!

3. What can Aruba expect from Daniella van den Berg at the 2012 London Olympic Games?

Since moving to Florida in August 2011, I have dedicated more time to training for the games. During the year in Florida I participated in intensive preparations and experienced a significant improvement in my tempo. I was able to notice this especially during the recent Carifta 2012 championships held in the Bahamas. There I reduced my tempo in the 800 Free with more than 10 seconds. Together with my coaches, in the US and in Aruba, they decided to change my primary event for the 800 Free, because that is where I think I will have the best results. With the additional preparations in the last three months, I feel very ready for the challenge and am confident that I will improve my tempo even more for which I have already set a goal.

Aruba can expect that I will be a dignified representative and will carry the Aruban flag with much pride. I will give all for my island in the world of swimming.

## Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal guests

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice couple who are loyal visitors of Aruba. Mr. William and Mrs. Kim Donaher from Chelmsford MA, USA, were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.

During a small ceremony at their home away from home - The Aruba Marriott Surf Club, Mr. Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, handed the Donahers with a certificate as a 'thank you' gesture for their more than 10 consecutive years vacationing on our island. Also present were Ms. Luzdary Leest and Mr. Benjamin Kock from the Marriott Surf Club.



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special friend of Aruba at the Divi Village as Ambassador of Good Will. The honoree is Mr. Warren Greenberg from Ormond Beach Florida.

The main reasons why Mr. Greenberg keeps coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beautiful beaches, the pleasant weather and diverse restaurants and the casinos.

The certificate was presented to Mr. Greenberg by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Hilda Mills and Mrs. Ana Arends representing the Divi Village



Also honored for their more than 10 consecutive visit on our island are Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Renee Miniach from Saddle Brook NJ. USA.. They were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. Recently, the Miniachs, together with their son, visited the island and stayed at the Aruba Radisson Beach Resort. According to them the love to come on the island for its friendly people, beautiful beaches, nice cuisine, in one word "everything" Aruba has to offer to its visitors." Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ernest Giel presented the nice couple with a handsome certificate thanking them for their love for our island. Photo shows young Miniach proudly showing off the certificate with Mr. Ernest Giel of ATA and Mrs. Germaine, Tasha and Michelle representing The Aruba Radisson Beach Resort.

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## Caribbean Festival is tonight!



**SAN NICOLAS** -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

## US House votes to repeal health law...

*Continued from page 1*

Republicans say "Obamacare" places unfair financial burdens on small businesses whose costs they say are rising under the law -- charges the White House refutes.

"The new harsh reality is that creating new jobs and bringing on new employees may be too expensive and too burdensome if this law is allowed to stand," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said.

Cantor essentially acknowledged the vote was a bid at political positioning. The Republican leadership brought

the issue to vote "so that we may all be on record following the Supreme Court decision in order to show that the House rejects Obamacare," he said. "We are committed to taking this flawed law off the books."

But Democrat John Larson took to the floor to vocalize what many critics of the repeal have already said: Republicans have not offered specifics of a plan to replace Obamacare.

"We continue to see no plan from the other side," Larson said. "We can only surmise this: that you would rather see the

president fail than the American people succeed."

With Romney insisting that the law's mandate that all Americans obtain health insurance or pay a fine amounts to a massive tax hike, the issue has morphed into a pivotal campaign battle front.

Yesterday's repeal vote illustrates what Americans "loath about politics in Washington," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"Casting these votes again and again and again... does nothing to improve the bottom

line for middle-class families."

Secretary of Health and Human Service Kathleen Sebelius issued a dire warning about the "devastating effects" that would hit millions of Americans should the Republican repeal come into force.

Ending the law would "take us back to the days when insurance companies were not accountable to anyone," she said, citing how repeal could see the re-imposition of lifetime dollar caps on benefits and refusal to cover patients due to pre-existing conditions.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Prosecutor: Italy cruise wreck hearing probably in September

ROME (AFP) - A court hearing in the investigation into the Costa Concordia cruise ship wreck will probably be held in September instead of the scheduled date of July 21, the main prosecutor said yesterday.

The hearing "will probably be delayed until September," Francesco Verusio, the chief prosecutor in the city of Grosseto near where the tragedy that claimed 32 lives happened, said in an interview with Rai public radio.

The results of technical analysis of the black box and other instruments on the ship are due to be revealed at the hearing and will shed light on the details of the accident on the night of January 13 off the Italian coast.

"I imagine that soon after that, in October or November, we will be able to close our investigation and then we will request a trial to start at the beginning of next year," Verusio said.

The Costa Concordia was carrying 4,229 people from dozens of countries when it hit rocks off the island of Giglio and then slowly keeled over, prompting a chaotic nighttime evacuation.

Nine people are under investigation including captain Francesco Schettino, four other crew members and three executives from ship owner Costa Crociere, Europe's biggest cruise operator.

Francesco Schettino said someone on the bridge should have spotted the offshore reef.

Leaked recordings from the ship's black box published by the Corriere della Sera daily yesterday meanwhile showed he took over command at 9:39 pm on that fateful night.

He also defended his decision to delay evacuation of the ship for 45 minutes, saying it would have been "stupid" to abandon the vessel earlier as it was moving closer to the shore making it easier for lifeboats.

### Cuba cholera contained, no case in capital: blog

HAVANA (AFP) - A Cuban cholera outbreak that has claimed three lives has been contained and no cases have been detected in the capital Havana, a pro-government blog reported yesterday.

Last week, the country's public health ministry said three senior citizens died of the disease, 130 years after the last known case was recorded on the Communist Caribbean island.

"Health authorities have told the Yohandry blog the cholera has been contained and not a single case exists in Havana," the site administrator said on via Twitter, countering reports to the contrary in the international media.

In the absence of official information, the blog (www.yohandry.com) is known for indirectly diffusing information from Cuban authorities.

On July 3, Cuban authorities said the three fatalities were elderly people and a thousand people were receiving preventative treatment in Manzanillo, a town of some 130,000 inhabitants.

They have declined to provide further details.

Cuba has informed the Pan American Health Organization of the outbreak. The body, in turn, issued an alert urging other states in the region to be vigilant and implement precautionary measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

Cuban dissidents, meanwhile, decried the lack of details about the outbreak.

"If cholera is dangerous, then cholera without the transparency of information is even more so," award-winning Blogger Yoani Sanchez tweeted.

Health officials last week

said they believe heavy rains and hot temperatures contributed to the outbreak, an intestinal ailment which is spread through contaminated food and water.

The ailment causes serious diarrhea and vomiting, leading to dehydration. It is easily treatable by rehydration and antibiotics, but can be fatal if not treated in time.

The outbreak is a matter of particular concern in Cuba, which prides itself on having one of the region's most admired public health systems, which is seen as one of the successes of its half-century old communist regime.

The last patient known to fall ill with cholera in Cuba was Manuel Jimenez Fuentes, who died of the disease in 1882, when the island was still a Spanish colony.

### Army reinforcements drafted over Olympic security fears

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's army will supply extra troops to guard the Olympic Games over fears that private security firm G4S will not be able to provide sufficient personnel, the government confirmed yesterday.

Responding to media reports that the military had been asked to provide up to 3,500 extra personnel, the country's interior ministry acknowledged it had intervened "by revising the level of military support".

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond would announce details of the new plans to parliament through a written statement today, the Home Office said.

"We retain the ability to be flexible in our response," the statement said.

"We have agreed to offer help to G4S by revising the level of military support. The focus of the government and everyone involved is on delivering a safe and secure Games."

The government insisted it was confident of sticking to the £553 million (\$877 million, 662 million euros) budget for venue security.

A security force of more than 40,000 people, backed by a huge intelligence operation, is to guard the Games, which start on July 27.

The Ministry of Defence was due to provide 13,500 troops, but could now be asked to supply 16,500. They will work alongside police, private security guards and unpaid volunteers.

A G4S spokeswoman ad-

mitted they had "encountered some issues in relation to workforce supply and scheduling."

"We accept that the government has decided to overlay additional resources and remain committed to keep London 2012 safe and secure," she added, according to the Press Association.

Shadow Olympics minister Tessa Jowell said it was "imperative that action is taken to ensure that the full and necessary quota of security personnel are in place".

But this is clearly a serious problem, and we have to understand how this problem arose.

"We need to know why the problem has emerged so late in the day and precisely what has been agreed to," she added.



**NEW YORK** : Community members throw shovels of dirt during the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new building of the Islamic Cultural Center of the Bronx on July 11, 2012 in the Bronx borough of New York. The former cultural center which serves a growing West African community burned down in 2009. (AFP PHOTO)



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Public workers in Argentina strike over unpaid bonuses

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A half-million public sector workers in Argentina's largest province were out on strike yesterday over a salary dispute with the local government, union leaders here said.

Local television showed hundreds of demonstrators blocking access to the Buenos Aires for the second day in a row.

"Strike participation is 100 percent," union leader Roberto Baradel claimed at a press conference. Baradel's union represents public sector workers, teachers, and health workers.

The 48-hour strike was called after the government of Buenos Aires province announced it would pay a semi-annual bonus in four installments, instead of the usual one.

The government, pleading poverty, has yet to distribute

the most recent bonus, due in June, to some 550,000 government workers.

Baradel warned that the strike may continue and keep schools from reopening on July 27 -- after a scheduled vacation -- if the bonus had not yet been paid.

The province's financial difficulties come amid a slowing economy, which authorities attribute to the global economic crisis.

However, some analysts question Argentine President Cristina Kirchner economic strategy, which includes radical controls on currency exchanges and curbs to imports.

Buenos Aires province has a population of about 14 million, and accounts for half of the country's GDP. The province is also home to Argentina's largest industries and the most important agricultural zones.

**Mata Amritanandamayi, also known as "The Hugging Saint" embraces followers on July 10, 2012 in New York City. The Hindu spiritual leader and guru is on a 10-city U.S. tour, where she is expected to bless thousands of people individually at free public "darshan" gatherings. Amritanandamayi, 58, from India's southern state of Kerala, is considered a living saint by her followers, who refer to her as "Amma" or mother. She has been giving the public "darshan" gatherings for 35 years, with the aim of**



bringing good fortune, well-being and grace to her followers through her embrace. Participants are en-

couraged to donate to her global charitable organizations, known collectively as "Embracing the World."

## Romney booed by black voters for 'Obamacare' jab

HOUSTON (AFP) - Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney made a bold pitch to black voters yesterday, but his vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health reforms drew a sustained chorus of boos.

Romney's address to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), America's largest civil rights group, was billed as a brave appeal to a voting demographic that overwhelmingly favors his opponent.

It was certainly a tough crowd and some cackled when the presumptive Republican nominee declared: "If you want a president who will make things better in the African-American community, you are looking at him."

Polite applause for his jobs pitch was accompanied by some raised eyebrows when he said the nation's first black president had left the economy "worse for African-Americans in almost every way."

But he ran into what was perhaps the most negative reaction to anything he has said on his year-long White House campaign when his pledge to repeal Obama's landmark health care reforms was met with loud and sustained boos.

Blacks voted overwhelmingly for Obama over Republican John McCain in 2008, but with US unemployment above eight percent for 41 straight months and a recent spike up to 14.4 percent jobless among blacks, Romney hopes to win over disaffected voters.

The dissent vocalized at the annual convention of the NAACP, exposed the uphill battle Romney faces in coming months to convince minority voters he is the best man for the White House.

In his speech, Romney spoke about the need to tamp down excessive government spending. "To do this," he said, "I will eliminate expensive non-essential programs like Obamacare." Before Romney could finish his sentence, the boos rained down loudly, lasting more than 20 seconds.

onds.

Romney recovered, and his supporters took to Twitter to praise the candidate's determination to lay out his political platform before a deeply pro-Obama crowd.

The former Massachusetts governor argued that Obama's presidency, while historic, has not lifted enough Americans from poverty, and is leaving many black families behind.

"If equal opportunity in America were an accomplished fact, then a chronically bad economy would be equally bad for everyone," Romney said. "Instead, it's worse for African-Americans in almost every way. The unemployment rate, the duration of unemployment, average income, and median family wealth are all worse for the black community."



People watch the flames shoot up from a freight train that derailed and some cars burst into flames, early Wednesday morning July 11, 2012 in Columbus Ohio. Lt. Terry Bush says the accident happened at about 2 a.m. Wednesday in a mixed-use part of the city, and people living in one-mile radius of the blast have been evacuated

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## Health & Living

### Quitting smoking adds even more pounds than thought



PARIS (AFP) - Quitting smoking leads to an average weight gain of four to five kilogrammes (nine to 11 pounds) in the first year -- "significantly" more than previously thought, a study said Wednesday.

Most of the pounds are piled on in the first three months, a team of medical researchers wrote in the online journal *bmj.com*, as another group stressed that the health benefits of quitting far outweighed the risks of putting on weight.

For quitters who did not

use nicotine replacement therapy, the average weight gain was 1.1 kilos at one month, 2.3 kilos at two, 2.9 kilos at three, 4.2 kilos at six months and 4.7 kilos after a year.

The researchers stressed that changes in body weight varied greatly, with about 16 percent of quitters losing weight and 13 percent gaining more than 10 kilos in the first year.

In an editorial accompanying the paper, experts from Spain and Australia said modest weight gain was far less life-threatening than smoking.

"Tobacco is the main cause of premature death worldwide, being responsible for 5.1 million deaths each year. Obesity, together with overweight, causes 2.8 million deaths," they wrote.

### Developing nations to get \$2.6 bln for family planning

LONDON (AFP) - Rich nations and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said they had pledged more than 2.6 billion dollars towards family planning in developing countries at a summit in London Wednesday.

The aim of the summit was to secure new funding pledges to give an additional 120 million women and girls access to contraception by 2020.

"We exceeded our target," British International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell told the summit, which drew more than 150 leaders from donor and developing countries, international agencies and the private sector.

"Enabling an additional 120 million women in the

world's poorest countries to access and use contraception, something women in the developed world take for granted, will save millions of lives and enable girls and women to determine their own futures."

He added: "We should avoid the pitfalls from the past, where controversy compromised the message. This is about giving women the ability to choose for themselves."

The organisers said the efforts would result in 200,000 fewer women dying in pregnancy and childbirth, more than 110 million fewer unintended pregnancies, over 50 million fewer abortions, and nearly three million fewer babies dying in their first year of life.

### Brazil to breed GM mosquitoes to combat dengue



BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil said Monday it will breed huge numbers of genetically modified mosquitoes to help stop the spread of dengue fever, an illness that has already struck nearly 500,000 people this year nationwide.

Dengue affects between 50 and 100 million people in the tropics and subtropics each year, causing fever, muscle and joint ache as well as potentially fatal dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

The disease is caused by four strains of virus that are spread by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. There is no vaccine, which is why scientists are focusing so intensely on mosquito control.

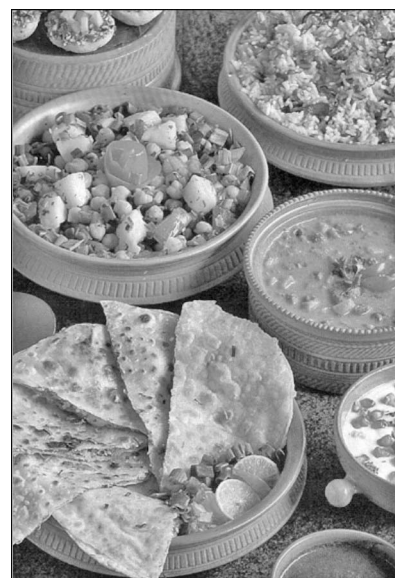
The initiative in Brazil will produce large quantities of genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which will be released into nature to mate with females, the health ministry said.

"Their offspring will not reach adulthood, which should reduce the population," it said in a statement.

The new mosquitoes will be produced in a factory inaugurated on Saturday in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia. Four million insects will be churned out per week.

The experiment has already been attempted in two mosquito-infested towns in Bahia, each with about 3,000 inhabitants.

"Using this technique, we reduced the mosquito population by 90 percent in six months," the ministry said.



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### 'Facebook depression' fears unfounded: US study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Worries about a link between depression and the amount of time spent on Facebook or other social media sites are probably unfounded, a US study said this week.

The University of Wisconsin School study found no basis to support the theory outlined in a study last year by the American Academy of Pediatrics that suggested exposure to Facebook could lead to depression among adolescents.

"Our study is the first to present scientific evidence on the suggested link between social-media use and risk of depression," said Lauren Jelenchick, a researcher at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

"The findings have important implications for clinicians who may prematurely alarm parents about social-

media use and depression risks."

Jelenchick and professor Megan Moreno surveyed 190 students at the university between the ages of 18 and 23. The survey participants were on Facebook for over half of the total time online.

They found no significant links between social media use and the probability of depression.

The results were published Monday in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

"Our findings are similar to those from studies of other communication applications, such as e-mail and chat, which also found no association with depression," the researchers wrote.

Still, they noted that "a single study cannot prove or disprove an association" and cautioned that the latest study "is limited by the sample's ethnic homogeneity, our focus on older adolescents in a single university setting, and a small sample size."

Moreno, a pediatrician who studies social media use among children and adolescents, said parents don't have to be overly concerned if their child's behavior and mood have not changed, and if they have friends and their school work is consistent.

"While the amount of time on Facebook is not associated with depression, we encourage parents to be active role models and teachers on safe and balanced media use for their children," said Moreno.

## Summer Vacation Ideas for your Kids



**Explore outside.** Being outside in nature is important for all children. Fresh air, exercise, and observation of the natural world are synonymous with childhood. See what your kids can discover about the area around your house, and about themselves.

**Watch movies.** Movies that your kids missed in the theater but are out on DVD still make for an exciting way to spend a lazy afternoon when it's too hot to play outside. Popcorn and lemonade make good accompaniments.

**Gardening.** One of the most entertaining summer activities can be gardening. There are various tools and guide books which help children take up gardening. Select a small space for your child's gardening and give him his desired seeds or seedlings. Every child delights the moment when he sees his planted seeds sprouting. Also buy the desired coloured pail and gardening materials for your child and teach him how to maintain his garden.

**Play board games.** Of course, this activity is good for any time of year. But if you have more than one child, or a child with nearby friends, encouraging them to play board games together always bears fruit. Kids often come up with their own set of house rules for old favorites, and often have more patience with each other for repeated rounds of the same game, over and over. And any time that parents have to join in, all the better.

**Watch the Summer Olympics.** This year the summer Olympics will be held in London, England from July 27 to August 12. No matter their leanings, there is likely a sport or two that will interest your kids. In addition to watching and learning, kids can mark the winners on a world map, or keep track of the medal count.



## SCI-TECH

**Caribbean parasite named after Bob Marley**

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A small crustacean parasite which feeds on fish in the Caribbean has been named after Bob Marley, in what the biologist who discovered it calls a tribute to the late reggae icon. The tiny shellfish, a blood feeder that inhabits the coral reefs of the shallow eastern Caribbean, has been called *Gnathia marleyi* after the Jamaican music legend.

"I named this species, which is truly a natural wonder, after Marley because of my respect and admiration for Marley's music," said Dr. Paul Sikkel, a field marine biologist at Arkansas State University.

"Plus, this species is as uniquely Caribbean as was Marley," he added, quoted on the website of the National Science Foundation, as well as that of the university.

The creature, from the family of gnathiid isopods, is the first new species to be found in the Caribbean in more than two decades, the National Science Foundation added.

**Planes landing at Sao Paulo airport face obstacles**

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Pilots face dozens of obstacles, including trees and commercial and residential buildings, when landing their aircraft at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport, the daily Folha de Sao Paulo reported Wednesday.

Citing documents obtained from Brazilian aviation authorities under the Access to Information Law in force since May, the paper said there were some 45 different obstacles, including buildings blocking the flight path of incoming planes.

The hurdles on the way to Congonhas, which lies within the city, include two hospitals and a shopping mall, the newspaper added.

Folha said all the obstacles were within a so-called "approach cone" through which planes must pass and gradually reduce their altitude to

land at Congonhas, one of the three commercial airports serving Sao Paulo.

Carlos Camacho, head of air safety at the National Union of airline pilots, said the obstacles did not mean a collision risk for incoming planes but that they reduced the safety margin.


Aviation authorities said obstacles at Congonhas would be "tolerated" until they are modified to meet regulations.

Sao Paulo's Guarulhos airport, Brazil's largest, meanwhile has 28 obstacles in its approach cone, including two Assembly of God evangelical churches, commercial buildings and a supermarket, Folha said.

It said this was because Guarulhos lies in a less densely populated suburban area.

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**Branson's spaceship steals the spotlight at airshow**

**British billionaire Richard Branson poses in front of a model of the Virgin Galactic**

Farnborough, United Kingdom (AFP) - British tycoon Richard Branson stole the show here Wednesday, announcing that he and his family would be on Virgin Galactic's first trip into space, as Airbus and Boeing eked out more plane orders.

Branson was showcasing a full size mock-up of his SpaceShipTwo (SS2) aircraft at the biennial Farnborough airshow near London -- a key event in the aviation sector calendar that typically sees planemakers Airbus and Boeing battle for orders.

"Obviously this is the most exciting adventure I have ever undertaken," Branson, founder of the Virgin Galactic space programme, told AFP.

"It's both an entrepreneurial and personal adventure in being able to build a spaceship and ask my (two adult)

children to come along."

In all, 529 people have signed up for the 60-mile (96-kilometre), two-hour ride into space, at a cost of £128,000 (\$200,000, 162,000 euros) each. Around 120 of them were at the Branson event in Farnborough.

Actor Ashton Kutcher and scientist Stephen Hawking are among the aspiring astronauts who have signed up to the programme that gets under way in late 2013 to early 2014, according to the Virgin empire head.

Irish businessman and author Bill Cullen, 70, was the first to sign up for a trip, in 2004.

The WhiteKnightTwo (WK2) aircraft that will help launch SS2 into space will also be used for a new launch vehicle, LauncherOne, which will take small satellites into space for around one tenth of the present cost, Branson said.

He addressed media on

the third day of the week-long Farnborough show which has featured contract announcements for civilian and military planes alongside fly-pasts.

Amid a weak global economy and government cutbacks, the 2012 event has been more subdued compared with recent years.

European planemaker Airbus came out on top for a second day running at Farnborough, announcing firm orders for its aircraft versus a sizeable number of commitments for Boeing products.

US giant Boeing had upstaged its arch-rival on Monday -- the show's first day.

France-based Airbus on Wednesday announced deals for its planes worth up to \$5.4 billion (4.4 billion euros) -- including a firm order from US leasing company CIT for 10 of its long-haul A330 planes worth \$2.3 billion.



## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## ACROSS

1. Mooing baby
5. \_\_\_ and downs
8. Purple flower
12. Twosome
13. Tippler
14. Lost Disney fish
15. Demolish
16. Casual greeting
17. Comedian Laurel
18. Opposite of NNW
20. Cantering leisurely
22. Clichéd sailor's tattoo
25. Grand in scale
26. Brighton

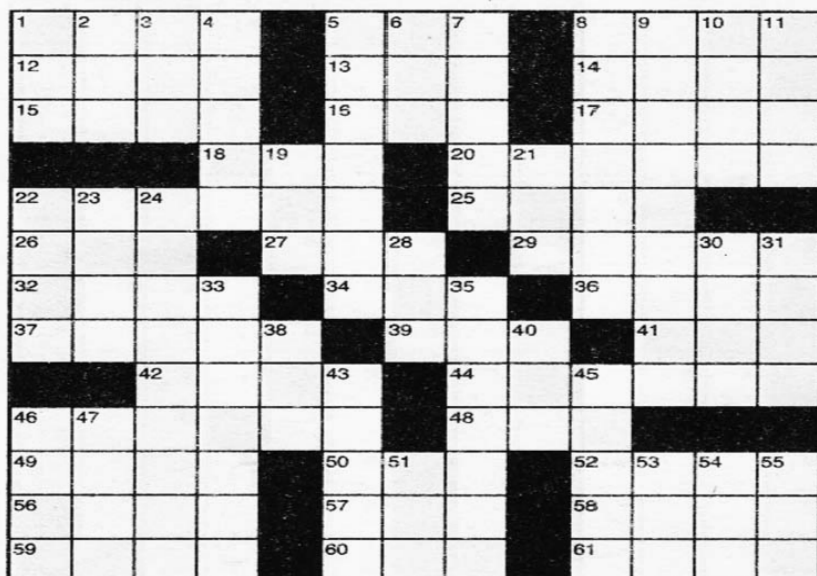
27. Congeal
29. Take care of the check
32. Touch ground
34. Cracker spread
36. Begrudge
37. Radiance
39. Misjudge
41. Robber pursuer
42. \_\_\_-free
44. Playwright O'Neill
46. Culprit's incentive
48. Cable news sta.
49. MP3 player

50. Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
52. Butter alternative
56. Zoo enclosure
57. Slight taste
58. Gentle
59. Alack's partner
60. Rescue worker (abbr.)
61. Entertainer Adams

## DOWN

1. Lifesaving

- skill (abbr.)
2. Drivers' org.
3. Columnist Smith
4. New
5. Led to a seat
6. Edgar Allan
7. Fashion magazine's concern
8. Stimulate
9. Reserve
10. "\_\_\_ Old Cowhand" (2 wds.)
11. Melody
19. "Help!"
21. Make a selection
22. Know-it-\_\_\_
23. Actor Beery
24. Covered wagon
28. Even score
30. Bard's river
31. Sort
33. Determines
35. Rule of conduct
38. Turkey mo.
40. Sprint
43. Short
45. Fairy-tale dwarf
46. Material for Christmas tree snow
47. October's stone
51. Goal
53. Top
54. Actor Wallach
55. Shelley work



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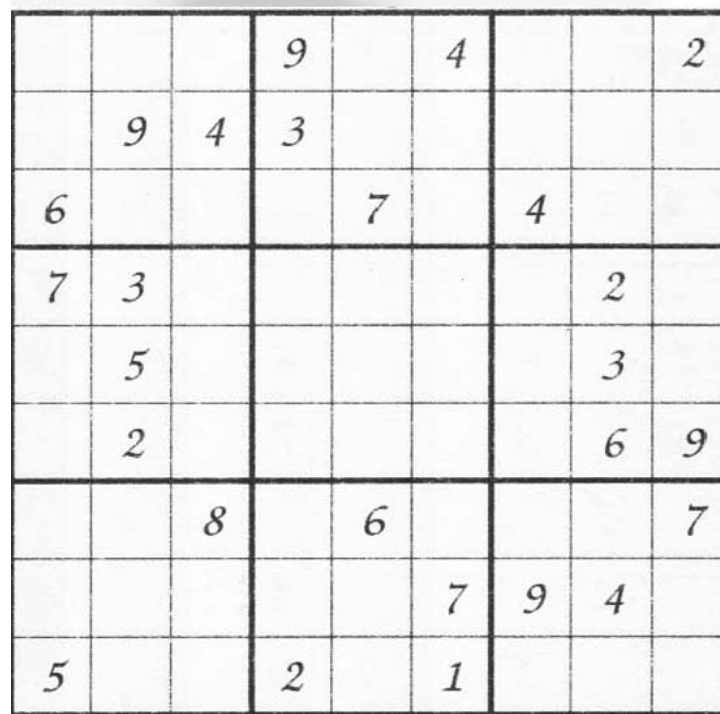
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## SOLUTION

9	8	5	1	6	2	7	3	4
1	7	6	4	5	8	9	2	3
2	5	7	9	8	3	6	1	4
6	9	5	8	1	7	2	4	3
4	5	7	2	1	9	6	5	8
8	2	1	6	7	5	9	3	4
5	6	7	5	2	1	7	8	9
5	2	8	9	7	4	6	1	3
7	1	9	4	8	6	5	3	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# Spain PM announces 65 bn euro austerity package

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced yesterday a 65-billion-euro (\$80 billion) austerity package to avert financial collapse as protesters against mining cuts clashed with police.

Rajoy, interrupted by howls from opposition members as he outlined the steps, performed a U-turn by raising value added sales tax after having promised he would not do so, and took an axe to state expenditure.

"These are not pleasant measures but they are necessary," said the premier, as outside the building protesters against mining subsidy reductions threw rocks at police, who responded with batons and rubber bullets.

Rajoy reminded parliament that Spain is going through one of its worst recessions in history, with unemployment at 24.4 percent and economic activity set to decline by nearly two percent this year.

He said new spending cuts and other measures, including notably a rise in value-added tax, would bring in 65 billion euros by the end of 2014 to help trim the annual deficit.

The European Union had demanded a VAT rise along with a series of other tough measures as it gave Spain an extra year to bring its bulging public deficit back to agreed limits.

The interest rate that investors demand to hold Spain's 10-year debt fell sharply after the measures were announced but remained at the still crippling level of 6.504 percent, down from 6.773 percent on Tuesday.

Key measures announced by the bearded 57-year-old leader of the conservative Popular Party were:

-- VAT goes up to 21 percent from 18 percent, and the reduced rate on some products such as food goes up to 10 percent from eight percent. A special four-percent rate on basic needs such as bread is untouched.

-- Public administration is to be reformed to save 3.5 billion euros, including a drastic cut in the number of publicly owned enterprises and a 30-percent cut in the number of local councillors.

-- For the newly unem-

-- Certain bonuses paid to top civil servants will be cut, and the Christmas bonuses for top public officials will be eliminated.

-- Environmental taxes will be reformed to comply with the "polluter pays" principle. Tobacco taxes, too, are to be targeted.

-- Tax relief on mortgage payments for new home buyers will be eliminated as of 2013.

In Brussels, eurozone ministers agreed the previous day to provide a first slice of 30 billion euros for Spain's banks this month, with 100 billion euros potentially available in



**Protesters clash with riot policemen during a coal miners' demonstration in Madrid, on July 11, 2012 in protest at industry subsidy cuts that they say threaten their communities. (AFP PHOTO)**

played, benefits will be cut after six months from 70 percent of basic salary to 50 percent. Previously, the benefit had been reduced after six months to 60 percent of salary.



**Indian farmers Hansaben(L), Geetaben (R) and Jesingbhai (C) plough a field in preparation for sowing cotton seeds in Nani Kisol village, around 70 km from Ahmedabad on July 11, 2012. Agriculture contributes about 15 percent to India's GDP but only 40 percent of farms are irrigated. The livelihood of hundreds of millions in the country of 1.2 billion people is dependent on the farming sector. (AFP PHOTO)**

all.

The 17-nation single currency bloc agreed, also, to extend a deadline for Spain to cut its public deficit to the European Union's limit of 3.0 percent of gross domestic product by one year to 2014.

As Spain struggles with recession, the bloc agreed to relax the deficit target to 6.3 percent of GDP from 5.3 percent in 2012; to 4.5 percent from 3.0 percent in 2013 and to then impose a 2.8-percent goal for 2014.

In return, Madrid had to enact further austerity. It had already approved in March a budget for 2012 that squeezed out 27 billion euros in spending cuts and tax increases.

"Compared to previous packages, the measures this time seem relatively straightforward to implement and will be hard to evade for tax payers," said Christian Schulz, senior economist at Berenberg Bank.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 07/11/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland	CHF	181.61	182.33	183.13
Netherlands	EUR	216.38	218.36	220.55
Sweden	SEK	24.58	25.30	26.10
Denmark	DKK	28.39	29.11	29.91
Norway	NOK	28.24	28.96	29.76
Japan	JPY	222.75	224.79	227.04
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				



**FARNBOROUGH - Airbus has encountered problems in drilling holes in the wings on its new A350 passenger jet, helping to drive shares in parent EADS down on yesterday as analysts reported signals that the glitches were taking longer than expected to resolve.**

## China overtakes Japan in fortune 500 rankings

-- Chinese firms have overtaken their Japanese peers on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's largest companies for the first time, and will continue to gain market share at the expense of the more developed competitors, the U.S. business magazine said recently.

China had 73 firms on the list, which ranks the world's biggest companies by revenue, compared to 61 last year. Japan stayed steady, with 68 firms. The biggest Chinese firms on the list are state-owned energy and utilities companies Sinopec Group, China National Petroleum and State Grid, which grabbed the fourth, fifth and sixth spots on the list.

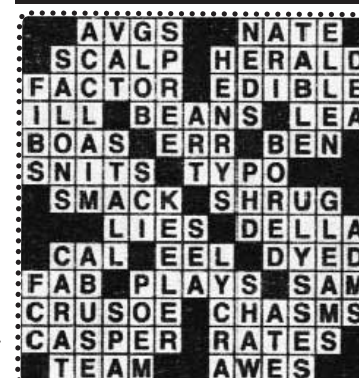
"High oil prices contributed to Chinese companies gaining on the list but we have also got a number of private companies on the list as well, including Huawei, the big manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, and that's gaining at the expense of some of the Western companies they compete against," said Stephanie Mehta, Executive Editor of

Fortune.

The rise of the Chinese enterprise will continue, Mehta said, signaling that a shift in the global economy is underway. The U.S. for example, which has dominated the list for the past decade, lost more companies during that period than any other country.

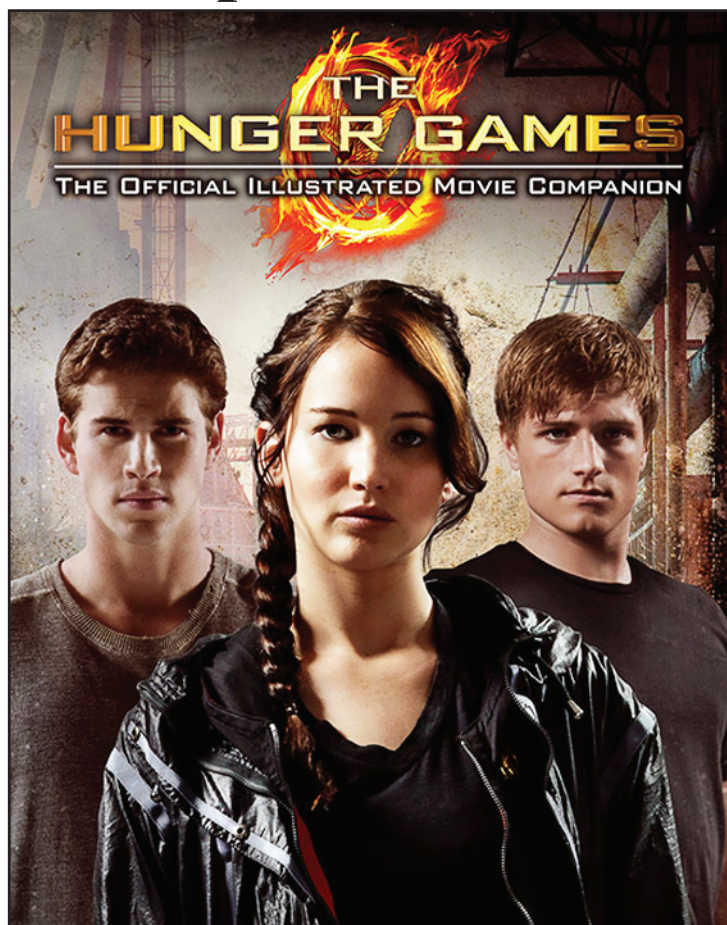
Although the U.S. still hosts the lion's share of Global 500 corporations, there are 132 U.S.-based businesses on this year's list, compared with 133 last year, and 197 a decade ago. The number of European firms fell to 161 from 172 in 2011.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





# Climax of 'Hunger Games' trilogy to be split in two



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The final installment of smash hit movie franchise "The Hunger Games," based on a trilogy by author Suzanne Collins, is to be split into two films, the film's makers have announced.

The decision to release the movies in November 2014 and 2015 -- targeting the lucrative Thanksgiving holiday

in the United States -- follows a similar move by producers of the "Harry Potter" films.

"The Hunger Games," about children forced to fight for their lives in a Roman circus-style televised blood sport in a post-apocalyptic world, broke US box office records when it was released in March.

"Hunger Games: Catching Fire," the second installment, is due out on November 22, 2013, according to Lionsgate, a studio based in Santa Monica, California.


And in an online update this week, the production company said "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1" will be released on November 21, 2014, followed a year later by "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2" on November 20, 2015.

The last book in JK Rowling's record-breaking boy wizard story, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was made into two movies released in 2010 and 2011.

Some critics were disappointed with "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I," saying it lacked action, while the last film, the climax of the seven-book, eight movie blockbuster, was widely praised.

The first "Hunger Games" movie made \$152 million in its debut weekend in March, the biggest ever opening weekend for a non-sequel film, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

It has since been beaten by comic superhero flick "The Avengers," which made an estimated \$200 million on its opening weekend in May.



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## Roger Moore croons 007 birthday song



PARIS (AFP) - One-time 007 Roger Moore has teamed up with a former Bond Girl to record a song marking 50 years of the spy's on-screen adventures, a James Bond fan club said on Wednesday.

The 84-year-old British actor took over Bond film duties from Sean Connery in 1973, making his debut in "Live and Let Die" before completing the sequence with "A View to a Kill" 12 years later.

He teamed up with Irka Bochenko, his co-star in the 1979 film "Moonraker", for the anniversary duet titled "Happy Birthday Mr. Bond!", the spy's French fan club told AFP.

Extracts will be posted online at [www.jamesbond007.net](http://www.jamesbond007.net) ahead of the record's release in September.

Hundreds of items -- from tuxedos to bikinis and vodka martinis -- went on show at London's Barbican Centre last week to mark 50 years since Bond made the jump from Ian Fleming's novels to the silver screen with the 1962 "Dr No".

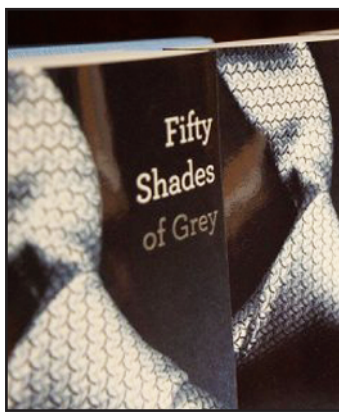
The next Bond movie, "Skyfall", directed by Sam Mendes with Daniel Craig as the glamorous spy, will hit world screens from October.

## Are Sofia Vergara and Nick Loeb Engaged?



It would appear that Sofia Vergara's beau Nick Loeb popped the question, since the Modern Family actress has been spotted multiple times over the past week with a sizeable diamond ring on her left hand. Plus, she's celebrating her 40th birthday in Mexico with 90 friends. Despite the pictures and confirmation from unnamed sources, the actress' rep claims there are no wedding bells in the works. Yet. The Modern Family star and Loeb, a businessman and aspiring politician, have been dating since 2010 after meeting at a Golden Globes party. Their relationship got serious fast when she helped nurse him back to health after a horrible car accident in August that year. The two broke up in May, but reunited weeks later. This will be the second marriage for Vergara, who wed Joe Gonzalez as a teen. She had a son, Manolo, at 20, before they divorced in 1993.

## 'Fifty Shades' trilogy breaks 20 million sales mark in US



(AFP)--Print and ebook sales of the "Fifty Shades" trilogy in the United States have broken the 20 million mark, its publisher said Wednesday, as Hollywood's take on the erotic tale inches closer.

That makes Americans by far the biggest enthusiasts of British author E.L. James' steamy best-sellers about a 21-year-old English literature student and her sadistic billionaire lover.

"As of Monday we have sold more than 20 million copies in all formats" in the

United States since its publication four months ago, Russell Perreault, director of publicity at Vintage Books, told AFP in an email.

Worldwide, the "Fifty Shades" books -- starting with "Fifty Shades of Grey" -- have sold a total of 31 million copies in all English-language markets, the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this week.

On Monday, Universal Pictures and Focus Features, who snapped up the film rights in March for \$5 mil-

lion, said Michael De Luca and Dana Brunetti -- collaborators on "The Social Network" -- will produce the film adaptation.

"At its core, 'Fifty Shades of Grey' is a complex love story, requiring a delicate and sophisticated hand to bring it to the big screen," said Universal's co-chair, Donna Langley, in a statement.

"Mike and Dana's credits more than exemplify what we need in creative partners, and we're glad to have them as part of our team."






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to watch cable TV, surf the internet using the broadband connection or watch a DVD.

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The double bedroom apartment will give you two bedrooms, one with a queen size bed, and one with two single beds. There is a bathroom, a kitchenette, dining area/living room, and also a spacious patio or balcony to relax outside. Note: the room has a sofabed, so up to 6 persons can stay in the apartment.

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For reservations please call at tel. (297) 586-3309, Fax: (297) 586-8331 or check it out at [www.delreyaruba.com](http://www.delreyaruba.com)

## 'Love hotel' for dogs to open in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Home to a 32-million-strong canine population, the world's second largest after the United States, Brazil is to open a "love hotel" for pets in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte.

The economic daily Valor reported that Fabiano Lourdes and his sister Daniela planned this week to inaugurate "Animalle Mundo Pet," an eight-story building with an entire floor devoted to dog tryst.

Dog owners will have to pay \$50 a day for a room, which comes complete with a heart-shaped mirror on the ceiling, red cushions on the floor and dimmed lighting.

The idea is inspired by the thousands of love motels which allow Brazilian couples to rent rooms by the hour for amorous purposes.

"For many people, the dog

is a child who must be well treated," 26-year-old Fabiano Lourdes explained.

"Our market studies showed that people work all day long and they do not know where to drop their pets for mating," he added, expressing hope that similar hotels will sprout up in other Brazilian cities.

The brother and sister told Valor they have invested \$1 million dollar in the venture, which has 60 employees, including veterinarians and biologists and will sell luxury accessories such as \$1,000 Swarovski crystal dog collars.

They hope to generate sales of more than \$300,000 a month.

Their pet love hotel will have a fitness center and space for dogs to celebrate their birthdays.

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## Native Americans descended from three Asian groups: study



PARIS (AFP) - Native Americans spread out today from Canada to the tip of Chile descended not from one but at least three migrant waves from Siberia between 5,000 and 15,000 years ago, a study said Wednesday.

The finding is controversial among geneticists, archaeologists and linguists -- many of whom have maintained that a single Asian ancestral group populated the Americas.

But the new study, claiming to be the most comprehensive analysis yet of Native American genetics, claims to have found incontrovertible proof that there were three immigration waves -- a theory first put for-

ward in 1986.

Most Native Americans, said the study, descend from a single group known as the "First American" which crossed from Asia via the Beringia land bridge towards the end of the last ice age some 15,000 years ago.

Their modern-day descendants include the Algonquin of Quebec, the Yaghan of Tierra del Fuego and the Kaqchikel Maya of Guatemala.

But two later migrations of people closely related to the Han ethnic Chinese were responsible for creating more groups, according to a paper published in the journal Nature.

"Speakers of Eskimo-Aleut languages from the Arctic inherit almost half their ancestry from a second stream of Asian gene flow, and the Na-Dene-speaking Chipewyan from Canada inherit roughly one-tenth of their ancestry from a third stream," it said.

This indicated interbreeding between later immigrants and the First Americans they encountered.

The second and third waves of migrants may have come to America in boats after the Beringia land bridge disappeared under water at the end of the last ice age,

human geneticist Andres Ruiz-Linares of University College London's department of genetics, evolution and environment told AFP.

The researchers found the most genetic diversity in North America and the most heterogeneous groups in the south -- to where they moved probably as competition for resources increased in the north as more people arrived.

"One of the main results is that natives from the northern parts of the continent would have a more recent Siberian ancestry than other people from the continent," as they mixed with the newcomers, said Ruiz-Linares.

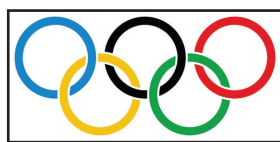
"Native Americans from the lower parts of North America all the way down to Tierra el Fuego originate from the really first settlers of the continent."

For the study, the team had to compensate for the impact of interbreeding with European and African immigrants since Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.

Ruiz-Linares said the findings were significant for our understanding of history and how the continent was settled.

The study gives genetic backing to the 1986 theory put forward by linguist Joseph Greenberg that the Americas must have been populated in three waves, based on language differences.





## Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12

### Qataris make historic choice for opening ceremony

DOHA (AFP) - Qatari female shooter Bahiya al-Hamad will carry the country's flag at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in London on July 27, the Qatari Olympic Committee announced on Wednesday on Twitter.

The 19-year-old - who is one of four female athletes to be selected for the Games in what is a first for the Gulf state - said she was overjoyed at having the honour conferred on her.

"I am shaking with joy to be carrying the national flag of my country, Qatar, at the opening ceremony," said al-Hamad, who will compete in the 10 metres pistol event.

"It is an historic moment for sport," added al-Hamad, who won three titles at the

2011 Arab Games and a silver medal at the Arab Championships in March.

Al-Hamad will be joined at the Games by female compatriots: swimmer Nada Mohammed Wafa Arakji, sprinter Noor Al-Malki, and table tennis player Aya Majdi.

The groundbreaking decision to field female athletes for the first time in their history at the Games came after a series of talks with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Despite this move earlier this year Qatari capital Doha still failed to make the short list for the race to host the 2020 Summer Games - the second successive time they failed to make it out of the long list.

### China unveils smaller London team

Beijing (AFP) - China has announced a far smaller team for the London Olympics than the one that topped the gold medal table at home four years ago, but expectations are high of another dominant performance.

Just 396 Chinese athletes will go to London, down from a record-breaking 639 in Beijing and fewer even than the 407 who competed at the Athens Games in 2004.

But sports officials emphasised that the London-bound team, unveiled at a ceremony in Beijing on Tuesday, was still China's third-biggest for an Olympics and urged the athletes to bring their country glory.

"The Chinese athletes must get fully prepared and ready to face the challenges. We have to fight for each gold," Sports Minister Liu Peng said at the announcement ceremony.

In Beijing, China as the host country could be represented in every sport, however it failed to qualify in a number of events for London.

These included the men's volleyball and soccer tournaments, which would have added dozens of athletes to the delegation.

Nevertheless, pressure is building on the Chinese team to cement the country's status as an Olympic powerhouse.

"In the gold-medal rankings, China will for sure end in the top two," said Wei Jizhong, former secretary-general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, according to the China Daily newspaper.

China has long dominated in sports with a lower profile in Western countries, such as table tennis, badminton, diving, shooting, gymnastics and weightlifting.

Thirty-eight of China's table-topping 51 gold medals in Beijing came in these sports.

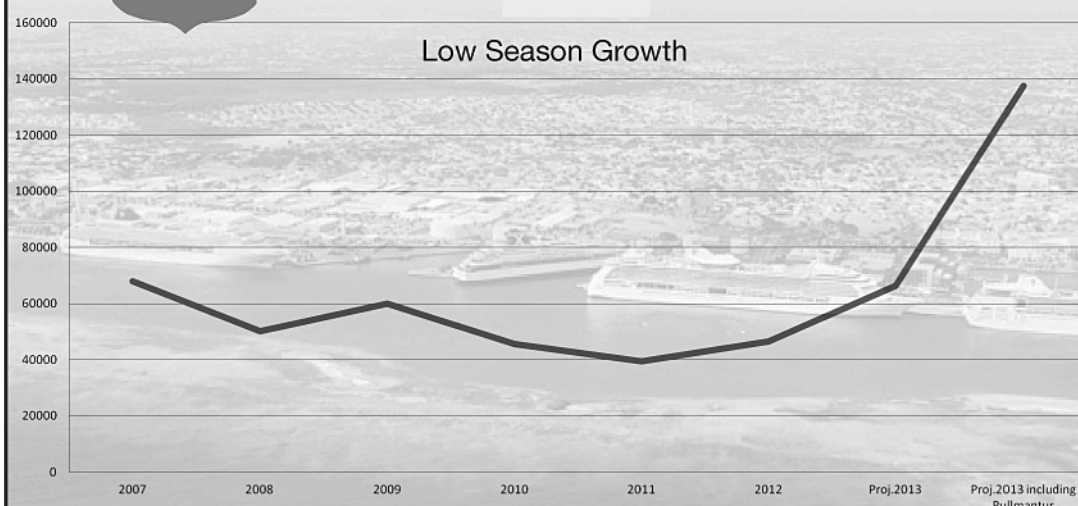
But in London, China is also looking for success in what are considered more prestigious Olympic sports, including swimming and track and field.

Among those with huge expectations on them in this regard is Sun Yang, who is tipped to become China's first male Olympic swimming champion.

Sun, who smashed Grant Hackett's decade-old 1,500m world record last year, ranks number one in the 400m, 800m and 1,500m.



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### Olympic teammate bemoans Phelps work ethic

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Tyler Clary has called out US Olympic swim teammate Michael Phelps for a poor work ethic, saying the 14-time Olympic champion could have done more had he worked hard.

Clary made his comments to the Press-Enterprise newspaper in his hometown of Riverside, California, about observations he made of Phelps for a year at the University of Michigan four years ago.

"I saw a real lack of preparation (from) him," Clary said. "Basically he was a swimmer that didn't want to be there. They can talk about all of these goals and plans and preparation they have. I saw it. I know. It's different. And I saw somebody that has basically been asking to get beat for the longest time."

Clary might have seen Phelps at the toughest time, however, just after his record eight-gold haul from the Bei-

jing Olympics when he gained weight and was not motivated.

"The fact that I know I work harder than he does makes me appreciate every little goal and every little gain that I make," Clary said.

"And the day that it happens, when I finally beat him, is going to be a huge deal in my mind, because it would be

complete satisfaction. And the only thing that would be better than that is breaking the world record."

Clary lost out on an Olympic spot in the 400-metres individual medley to Phelps and Ryan Lochte but was second to Phelps in the 200 butterfly and second again in the 200 backstroke to qualify for London in both of those events.



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## Nationals beat Americans 8-0 in All-Star Game



The National League celebrates their victory



der for five runs and Cabrera (photo below), named the game's Most Valuable Player, added a two-run homer in the fourth inning to secure the triumph. It was the third victory in a row for the National League over the American League, which had a 13-game All-Star win streak snapped in 2010, and gave the eventual NL champion a home-field edge in October's World Series final.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AFP) - Melky Cabrera blasted a two-run home run and Pablo Sandoval sma-cked a three-run triple to power the National League past the American League 8-0 Tuesday in the 83rd Major League Baseball All-Star Game. National League batters tagged American League starting pitcher Justin Verlander

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## USADA gives Armstrong 30-day extension

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AFP) - The US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) has given Lance Armstrong a 30-day extension to contest the doping conspiracy charges against him while he pursues a lawsuit against USADA.

Armstrong has filed a lawsuit in US District Court in his hometown of Austin, Texas, asking a federal judge to issue an injunction against USADA from pushing forward with its charges or imposing any sanction upon the US cyclist.

The seven-time Tour de France champion could be stripped of his titles and given a lifetime ban from the sport if found guilty of being part of a doping conspiracy from 1999 through 2005, the years he won the Tour de France.

Armstrong has accused Tygart of having a vendetta against him and argues in the lawsuit that only the International Cycling Union, not USADA, has the jurisdiction to bring such charges against Armstrong.

USADA's next step would be to conduct a formal hearing involving a three-member arbitration panel to hear the evidence.

## Sports briefs...

**Voekler wins stage as Wiggins defends yellow BELLE GARDE - SURVALSERINE** (AFP) - Britain's Bradley Wiggins retained the yellow jersey on the first day of the Tour de France in the Alps Wednesday as France's Thomas Voekler won the 10th stage.

Voekler, of the Europcar team, capped an impressive game of cat and mouse with several rivals in the closing kilometres to claim his first victory of this year's race and third of his career.

Italian Michele Scarponi (Lampre) finished second at 3sec with German veteran Jens Voigt (RadioShack) third at 7.

Wiggins retained his 1min 53sec overnight lead on BMC leader Cadel Evans,

with Sky teammate Chris Froome still third overall at 2:07 and Italian Vincenzo Nibali (Liquigas) at 2:23.

**US Open boosts prize money to record \$25.5 million**

NEW YORK (AFP) - US Open prize money will jump by more than \$2 million this year to a record \$25.5 million with another \$2.6 million in potential bonuses available, the US Tennis Association announced on Wednesday.

For the 40th year in a row, women and men will receive equal prize money, with each singles champion taking home a record \$1.9 million and potentially up to \$1 million each in bonus money for performance in US Open tuneup events.

**Uruguay v Chile friendly result**

M A L D O N A D O , Uruguay, July 11, 2012 (AFP) - Result of international friendly played here on Wednesday:

Uruguay 6 (Suarez (31, 35, 47, Cavani 39-pen, 71, Hernandez 84) Chile 4 (Henriquez 2, Munoz 11, Ubilla 80, 90)

**Stricker seeks fourth John Deere title in a row - SILVIS, Illinois** (AFP) -

Steve Stricker goes for his fourth consecutive US PGA John Deere Classic title starting Thursday, the American veteran having already won once this year entering the \$4.6 million tournament.

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## Meet Daniella van den Berg... Ready to represent our island, Aruba at 2012 Olympic Games

Daniella van den Berg began practicing swimming at the early age of five, too young to really choose what she wanted to do with her life, it was her parents who led her to the sport of swimming. Today she is very happy with the choice. One of the experiences that have been embedded in her mind is the experience of her competition in the CCCAN at Barquisimeto, Venezuela where she earned a gold medal.

Daniella has competed against athletes from big countries in the Latin American continent. She has a personal record of over 400IM with a tempo of 5.16, which is also a record for Aruba in this event. Daniella's biggest accomplishment, thus far, is her Silver win at the 2011 South American championship in Lima, Peru with which she classified for the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

All athletes have one dream, and Daniella is no exception. Since childhood she dreamed of becoming an Olympic athlete, today her dream will become reality! According to Daniella, you should never stop short of sacrificing to get to your ultimate goal. Here are a few questions Daniella was asked regarding her upcoming 2012



London Olympic Games participation:

**1. How are your preparations going for the Olympic Games?** Well, my preparations are going well. In August 2011 I went to the US to live and train. It took some time for me to get accustomed to the training and the change of life and school. But, after more or less 6 months I was able to settle in and to realize how the change is helping me a lot. In March

and April I participated in two big competitions, one in Orlando and also Carifta in the Bahamas where I joined my Aruba team. At both competitions I was able to improve my tempo above the 400 and 800 Freestyle and I achieved the goals I had set for myself for those competitions.

**2. What will it be like for you to represent Aruba at an Olympic Game?**

For me as such a young girl, it would be a very great experience that I am certain I would never forget! I believe that anyone who gets an opportunity to represent their country at an Olympic Game must be very happy and proud to be there. To represent your country at such a competition as the Olympic Games means that you are among the best of your country, together with all the other best athletes of the world. I would be very happy and feel honored because it would mean that all my training sacrifice, leaving my family, friends and all the efforts for so many years have paid off!

**3. What can Aruba expect from Daniella van den Berg at the 2012 London Olympic Games?**

Since moving to Florida in August 2011, I have dedicated more time to training for the games. During the year in Florida I participated in intensive preparations and experienced a significant improvement in my tempo. I was able to notice this especially during the recent Carifta 2012 championships held in the Bahamas. There I reduced my tempo in the 800 Free with more than 10 seconds. Together with my coaches, in the

US and in Aruba, they decided to change my primary event for the 800 Free, because that is where I think I will have the best results. With the additional preparations in the last three months, I feel very prepped for the challenge and am confident that I will improve my tempo even more for which I have already set a goal.

Aruba can expect that I will be a dignified representative and will carry the Aruban flag with much pride. I will give my all for my island in the world of swimming.

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